

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 13 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
13 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Mexico

Student strikers are determined to continue their challenge to the government. All schools of the national university have rejected an appeal to return to classes. The strike committee, in expectation of a government crackdown, is making plans for a secret second team of leaders and underground printing presses.

A "silent march" to the capital's main plaza is scheduled for today. Another clash with security forces probably would result in the strike's spread to other universities throughout the country.

2. South Vietnam

Ky has accused "foreigners" (by which he means the US) of plotting to overthrow the present government so that a coalition with the Communists can be formed.

his remarks, as quoted in the Vietnamese press, look more like another intemperate outburst than the rationale for a move against Thieu. Given Ky's temperament, he might try it some time, but his power base has been pretty well eroded.

3. Czechoslovakia

Prague is moving to fulfill some of its commitments under the Moscow agreement. The National Assembly convenes today to consider press legislation even more restrictive than the censorship of Novotny days. Foreign Minister Hajek is reported about to resign, and there may be other cabinet-level changes.

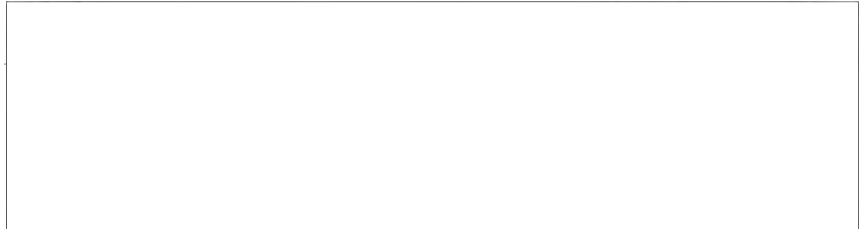
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4. Soviet Union

Another attempt at an unmanned circumlunar flight probably will be made within the next few days. Both previous firings--in November 1967 and April 1968--failed when the booster of the vehicle malfunctioned.

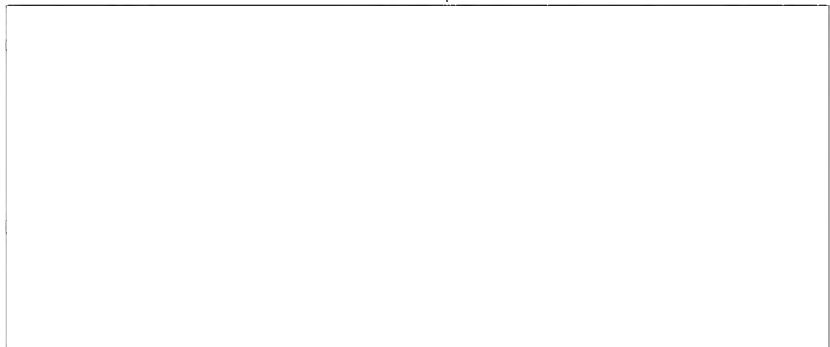
5. Common Market



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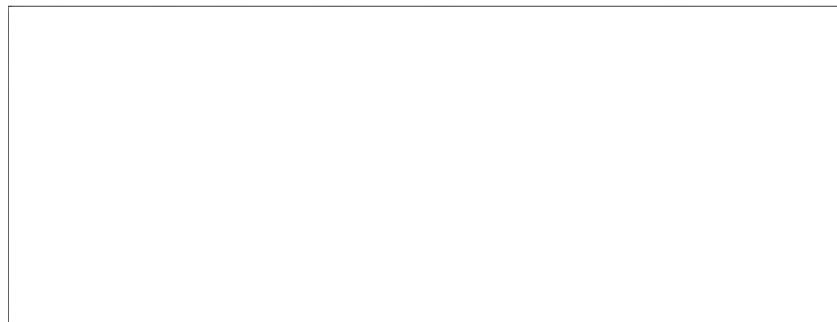
6. Philippines-Malaysia

The dispute over Sabah is still simmering. Marcos has little political choice but to sign the bill asserting Philippine right to the territory, and Malaysia has warned that a break in relations may follow.



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7. Bolivia



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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Facing Up to Internal Problems: The North Vietnamese may be starting to tackle some of the domestic problems which have been neglected during the war years. There is an increasing amount of fragmentary evidence that planning of this kind has begun.

For example, some highly critical comments on important North Vietnamese internal problems and policies have surfaced in the party press.

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The speech [redacted] was recently carried in the party theoretical journal and over the domestic radio, suggesting that the problems he addressed are national in scope.

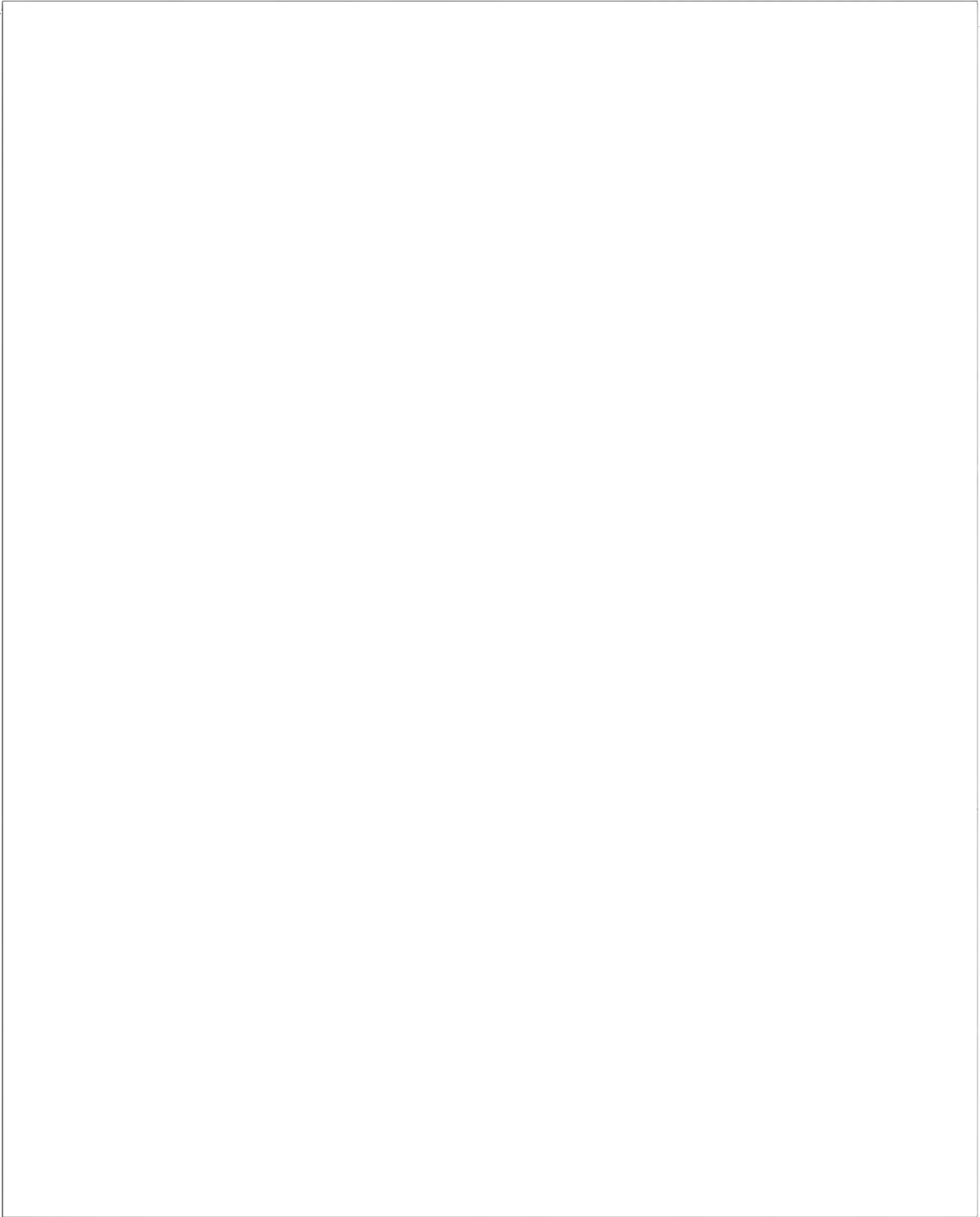
The first half of the speech was concerned with agricultural planning. Le Duan offered extensive advice on how the country's economic development, particularly agricultural production, should be improved. His comments had a distinct postwar flavor, doubtless in part because he was addressing an area no longer subject to US bombing.

In the second half of his talk, Le Duan took party members to task for a wide variety of sins, including mismanagement, incompetence, and failure to keep up with the times. He accused some unnamed party leaders--at least at the provincial level--of improper personal conduct, and of misunderstanding and misinterpreting party policy. He recommended expanding the party's ranks to include young people trained in economic management.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Liberation Radio Commentary: Following Hanoi's lead, Liberation Radio has come out with a critical commentary on the US political scene. A broadcast on 2 September insisted the Vice President would closely follow President Johnson's policies and the Communists could hope for no change for the better in January. Nothing was said about Mr. Nixon.

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